

REMARKS

Claims 10, 13-17, and 19-29 are pending with claims 27-29 being added by this paper.

Applicants acknowledge Examiner Rinehart's time and courtesy during the 27 May 2004 teleconference with Applicants' representative James E. Ruland. The sole applicable item discussed was the substance of an Advisory Action mailed 12 May 2004. Particularly, Applicants' representative reviewed the patent application informational retrieval (PAIR) information for the above-referenced application, which indicated that the Advisory Action was mailed on May 12th. However, this paper had not yet been received by Applicants' representative. Consequently, Examiner Rinehart informed Applicants' representative that the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C §112, first paragraph to claims 24 and 25 were withdrawn pursuant to Applicants' Reply filed 28 April 2004 and the personal interview on 27 April 2004. In addition, the Examiner indicated that the claim rejections in view of Shaffer and Hansen under 35 U.S.C §103(a) were withdrawn with respect to claims 10-11, 13, 23 and 25 based on the Reply filed 28 April 2004. However, the Examiner indicated that the claim rejections in view of Pisecky and Getler under 35 U.S.C §103 to claims 10 and 23 are being maintained.

Consequently, Applicants have made the above amendments to place the application in condition for allowance. Particularly, substantive features of claim 11 have been incorporated into claim 10, and new claims 27-29 correspond, respectively, to allowable subject matter in claims 13, 24, and 25. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that these amendments be entered to place the application in condition for allowance.

In addition, Applicants have made clarifying amendments by altering terminology, such as --a first liquid medium-- instead of "media", which is supported by the specification. See, e.g., page 3 and Fig. 1. Also, Applicants have made amendments to provide antecedent

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basis, see, e.g., claims 15 and 16. None of these clarifying amendments narrow the scope of the claims.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration is courteously requested. If there are any remaining issues which can be expedited by a telephone conference, the examiner is courteously invited to telephone counsel at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

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